

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

3810 Rosin Court, Suite 150  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Carl DeWing  
(916) 263-7949

September 3, 2002  
PR 02-20

**ABC SUSPENDS CHEVY'S RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE**

**Sacramento** – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today suspended for 30 days the liquor license of the Chevy's Restaurant, 1234 Howe Avenue in Sacramento. The action was the result of a fatal crash involving 20-year-old Jesse Patrick Snow on October 25, 2001. Snow and four other minors were served alcoholic beverages at the restaurant-bar the night of the crash.

The formal penalty imposed on Chevy's is a 60-day suspension, with 30 days of the suspension stayed for a period of one year. If during the year any further similar violations occur, the stayed 30 days would be added to any new penalty. Beginning today, the restaurant will not be allowed to serve alcohol beverages for the next 30 days.

ABC Sacramento District Office Administrator Tim Gorsuch noted that the suspension coincides with the beginning of the Sacramento State University fall semester, which was agreed to by the restaurant. Said Gorsuch, "It is important for liquor licensees to understand the potential tragic consequences when minors are served alcoholic beverages. This was a classic case of employees not selling and serving alcoholic beverages responsibly."

ABC Acting Director Jerry Jolly says the timing of the suspension also highlights ABC's program to work with all California State Universities to reduce binge drinking and alcohol abuse by university students. Under a memorandum of understanding signed by Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed, six State agencies will coordinate activities with the CSU system in attacking the student alcohol abuse problem.

Said Jolly, "The goal of this program is to create a better environment on our State's university campuses for students to excel without the negative effects of alcohol, and to prevent the tragic consequences such as the one involving the Chevy's restaurant in Sacramento."

Snow, a Sacramento State University student, died shortly after he left the restaurant in a car driven by 20-year-old Stephen Shane Head. Head's blood alcohol content measured .20 shortly after the crash around midnight. He has been charged with vehicular manslaughter, gross negligence and driving under the influence. A criminal trial is pending in Sacramento County Superior Court.

Snow and Head met with a group of friends in Chevy's the night of the crash. Besides Snow and Head, there were three other minors drinking what were described as very strong

alcoholic beverages. Several of the witnesses, including some of the minors, said no IDs were asked for during the evening.

In signed statements, several of the witnesses said both Snow and Head appeared to be intoxicated by about 10 O'clock. They also said the bartender was mixing a drink called a "Hurricane" with a stronger than normal amount of alcohol in a larger than normal glass, which most of the group was drinking. Under state law, a liquor licensee is responsible for the actions of its employees.

Chevy's did not challenge the penalty by stipulating to the suspension, thereby avoiding lengthy legal appeals which could have delayed the suspension for months or even years.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.